

10-5-95

Entertainment

Cross the tracks to Crossroads

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Life at Valley comes full circle

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Monarchs reign supreme

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VALLEY STAR

Volume 47, Issue No. 41

Los Angeles Valley College

Van Nuys, California

October 5, 1995

News Notes

Starting Oct. 28, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and concluding on Nov. 4, UCLA Extension will present a two-part seminar featuring leading community college authorities and career development experts discussing job options. This program will take place in Room 2258A Franz Hall on the UCLA campus, for a fee of \$145, including all course materials. For complete details, call UCLA Education Extension at (310) 825-4581.

The California Conservation Corps (CCC) is kicking off its fall hiring campaign, with job opportunities available for young people throughout the state. For more information call the CCC's toll-free number, 1-800-952-JOBS.

The Associated Students Union (ASU) offers a \$7 membership fee which entitles you to: free legal advice, free tutoring in the Learning Center, free admission to sporting events among other discounts on entertainment, products and services.

Blood Drive will be on Oct. 10 and 11 in the Student Health Clinic. For more information call (818) 780-0652 or visit the Women's Gym Building.

Tau Alpha Epsilon (TAE) skate night is on Oct. 8 from 7 to 10 p.m. Admission is \$4.50 and \$2 for skate rental or bring your own. The fundraiser will be held at Northridge Skateland at 18140 Parthenia St., between Reseda and Lindley. Call (818) 885-7655.

On Oct. 10, Jessie Jackson and Edward James Olmos will be speaking at Santa Monica Community College for Affirmative Action Day. There will be workshops on citizenship and voter registration. For more information, call Dean of Student Services Sam Mayo at ext. 243 or 244.

ASU presents "Homecoming '95" after party on Oct. 14. Valley vs. Pierce College and after party doors open at 8 p.m. in Monarch Hall. Pre-sale tickets are now on sale in ASU office. Call ext. 361 for more details.

HIV Testing is today Oct. 5 at the Student Health Clinic from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., located in the Women's Gym Building.

Counseling Department and the Transfer Center presents: College and University Information Day. Representatives from UCLA, USC, CSUN and others will be present on Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Monarch Square. Contact Barbara Goldberg, Transfer Center Director at Ext. 246 for more information.



Aaron Flowers, number seven, Western States Conference's top rated quarterback breaks it for a big gain with a victory in the biggest, most difficult game of the season. See page 6.

Students, clubs to compete for money, royal titles

By Kit Paraventi
Feature Editor

Though Valley College's upcoming clash with Pierce College's Brahmas represents an anticipated annual social occasion in itself, only a few of the college's long-time faculty and staff members have witnessed anything resembling the scheduled half-time and post-game activities. "We decided it was time to revive Homecoming at Valley," said Lupe Marquez, Commissioner of Athletics for the Associated Students' Union (ASU).

Marquez, who said that the LAVC has not hosted a Homecoming ceremony since the 70s, is part of a six-member ASU committee responsible for organizing "Homecoming '95." She says that half-time festivities will include the crowning of a student king and queen, a parade of club-sponsored floats which will compete for cash prizes, and appearances by college cheerleaders.

A martial arts demonstration will also be featured. The committee is also preparing decorations and finalizing plans for a dance which will take place in Monarch Hall following the game.

"I've been coming to games here for the last three years, and I've never seen anything as exciting as it was back in high school," said Marquez. "Right now, the Monarchs are 4-0 in the JACC league, and among the top community college football teams in the nation. We thought it would be a great time to revive the tradition."

Student president Lorenzo Trujillo calls the event an "opportunity to stimulate more student involvement." In an effort to make the King and Queen contests achievement-oriented, Trujillo said the committee decided to judge candidates on the basis of two-page essays which describe their educational and career goals.

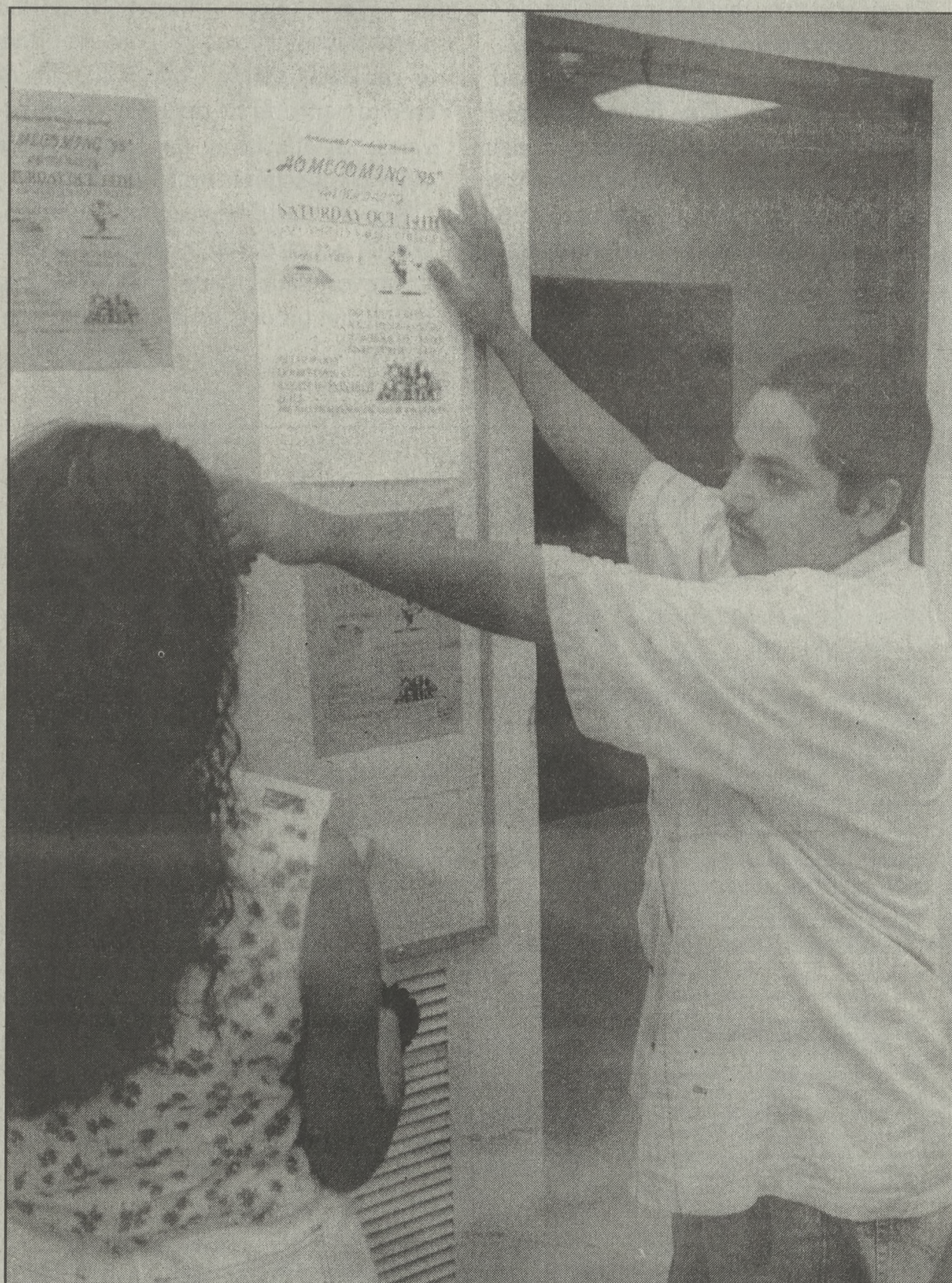
"We wanted to create a contest that was based in some way on scholastic achievement," said Mariaelena Miranda, Commissioner of Social Activities who is coordinating efforts by student leaders, faculty, and campus security.

"After all, this is a college." Trujillo also points out that popularity, the overriding qualification for student royalty in larger schools, is difficult to gauge on the more polarized community college level.

"So many of the students don't know each other," Trujillo said. "That's one of the reasons we want to revive events such as this one."

Each club may nominate separate king and queen candidates and enter two floats which will take the field following the half-time crowning ceremony. First place winners in all events will receive \$100 prizes, while the second-place float will be awarded \$50. Marquez reports that five of the 11 campus clubs have registered for the float competition, which will be judged by the committee.

The cost of admission is \$3 for LAVC students, and \$4 for the general public. Various clubs will also offer food and beverages which will be sold at their respective booths during the dance.



Lorenzo Trujillo and Mariaelena Meranda discuss homecoming activities and preparations in ASU offices.

Opinion Editor's Editorial
Ed West Contributing Writer

Title III grant is biased

The United States Government, specifically the U.S. Dept of Education, has awarded Valley College a grant of \$1.75-million. The money will be apportioned over a five year period in increments of \$ 350,000 and allocated to expand the College's services for Latino students.

Any and all monies awarded to public schools, from whatever the source, is indeed a boon and a blessing. Grants and endowments made by private individuals often bear the stipulation that their endowments be used for the advancement of art, humanities, theater, music, etc. Private individuals have every right to make these designations, for it is through their benevolence these programs are broadened or enhanced. The government cannot discriminate in the allocation of funds. The granting of funds to public schools is for the benefit of all students and not designated for one specific ethnic group. The matter of determining how the money is utilized should be left to school administrators, who are more knowledgeable of the needs of all students.

This government grant, as presented by its agent, to me, reeks of the malodorous stench of discrimination. I think the officials of the school board should return the money for that reason. Obviously they chose to ignore the disgraceful terms that assured the acquisition of the grant and by doing so, placed other ethnic students at an unfair advantage. Did they not see that the grant is biased?

Claudio Prieto, Manager of the federal DOE, is, I am sure, a kind and benevolent man who is exceedingly proud of his heritage. However, I am also of the opinion that his reasons for this grant were not only ill-conceived, they indicate his blatant preferential treatment to those of his culture.

If Prieto chooses to be magnanimous with his personal funds, he has every

right to specify how his money will be used. When he issues government grants, public funds that are not his, his personal interests should not be a consideration for the issuance of those funds.

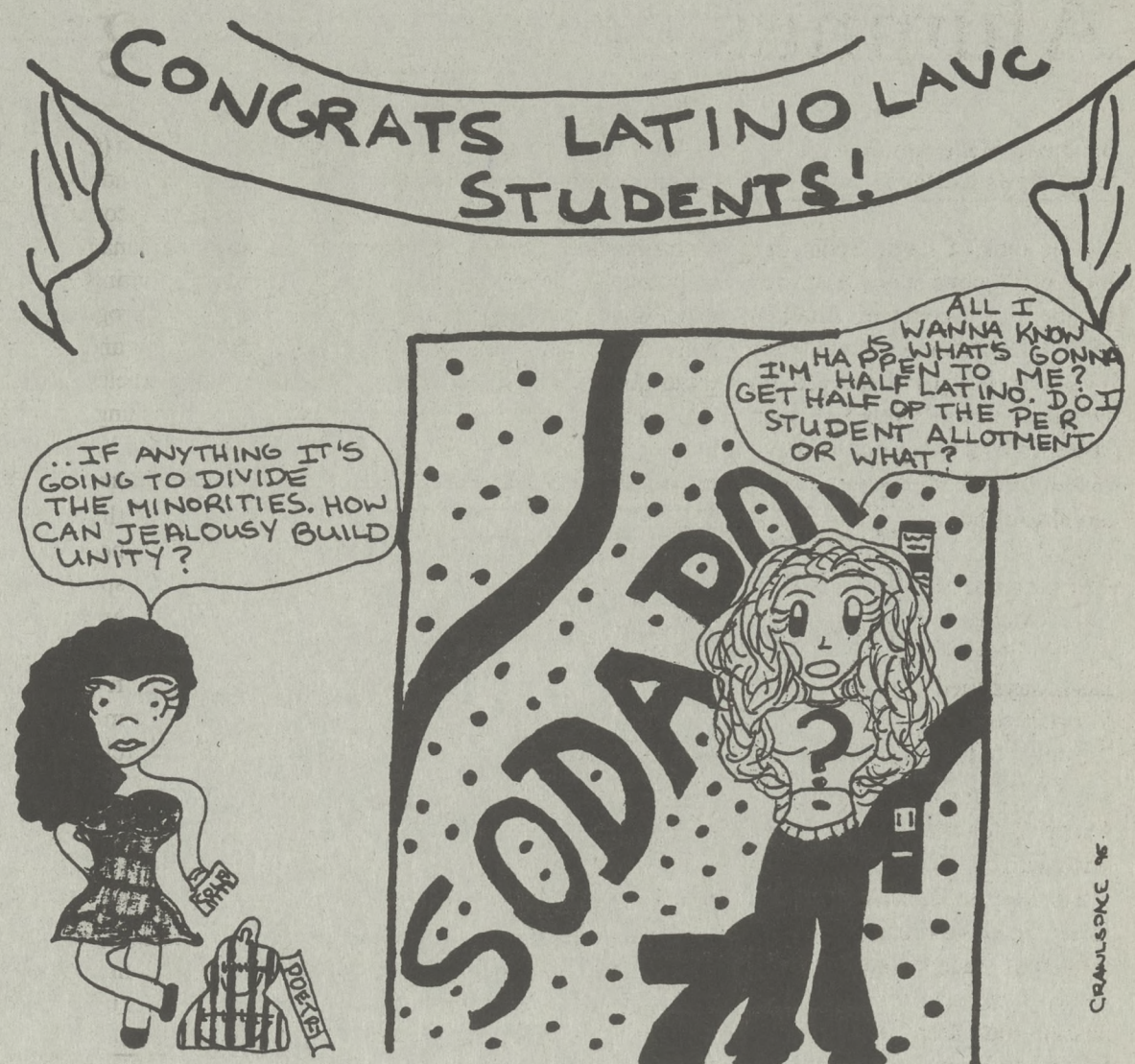
If an African/American succeeds Prieto, will government funding for education be for special programs only for African/American students. If a White person succeeds the African/American, will government funds be made available only for the special interests of White students? This plan of Prieto's can lead to very serious repercussions. It creates envy and jealousy. It may possibly exacerbate the hatred some students already have for other cultures. It could lead to race riots on campus.

Prieto's plan can also be perceived from a totally different aspect. After reading the entire article in the Times, I wondered if he was implying that Latino students are not capable of learning in the same manner of other ethnic groups. He intimates that Latino students need support services for registration, math, chemistry and biology. That premise immediately provokes two questions. Why, and How have previous Latino students at Valley College managed to complete their studies without these proposed specialized services?

In replying to my own questions, I say this. Many Latinos have successfully completed their courses at Valley without the need of customized student services such as those proposed by Prieto.

Valley College prides itself on the numerous assistance programs it offers to students. Valley College is considered to be the front-runner in these services, far and away the leader of the other eight schools in the district.

Through and because of these programs, countless numbers of students from every background, have been counselled and proceeded on to higher education.



Con Valley students should be ashamed

Opinion by Shawn M. Bush
Editor in Chief

Every student attending Los Angeles Valley College should be ashamed. How can an institution which is designed to provide higher learning, support racism? In accepting a recent grant based on our Latino population, LAVC has unwittingly encouraged the discrimination and separatism that racism breeds.

LAVC applied for a Title III grant from the U.S. Department of Education. To be eligible, the student body had to be at least 25 percent of Latino origin. Our college competed with agencies across the country to win these funds, totaling \$1.75 million. The money will be dispersed in \$350,000 increments over the next five years.

Though students from every race will benefit through the services these dollars will fund, the fact a certain group was used as

bait to attract the grant is appalling.

The Los Angeles Community College District issued a statement saying, "In the past decade, growth in numbers has been accompanied by a shift in the complexion and accents of the student body. LAVC's current enrollment is 56 percent minority, and 30 percent Hispanic. LAVC's students come from homes where more than 40 percent speak languages other than English.

Hispanic students have increased 46 percent in the last five years and are expected to continue to grow at a steady two to three percent per year."

Does this mean we can expect the school to apply for grants benefitting Korean, Turkish or Eskimo students if we suddenly have an increase in their numbers on campus? One thing is certain, with the district predicting growth within this element of our population, Latino students will continue

to be used for attracting dollars.

"Originally these type of grants were designed to help Black student institutions," said Sergio Sotelo in the Valley Star, Sept. 28.

Sotelo's comment raises the question, why was the requirement for the grant changed from Black students to Latino? Black students should not be angered by this change. In fact, they should be glad that administration has not chosen to use them for simply the color of their skin.

Assisting students based on need is wonderful. Providing extra dollars to those institutions which prove themselves as upwardly mobile and deserving should be the rule.

Providing extra dollars to those institutions which say "we are 12.5 percent anything" is wrong. It is insulting to benefit any person or institution based on race. Whether hindering someone or helping someone based on their color, the final result is the same, racism.

Pro Grant is good for all - including Latinos

Opinion by Jose Israel Lemus
Asst. Sports Editor

I want to believe the college will use the \$1.75 million grant, the Department of Education recently awarded, in helping the targeted students as it is intended.

I want to believe the college will do just as Student Counselor Sergio Sotelo said, "The money from this

grant will be used as a pilot project to help under prepared, low-income students by creating additional support services," as previously quoted.

I want to believe those "under prepared, low income" students who will benefit from the pilot project will be of all ethnicities, and all students who need assistance in math and science and what-

ever other subject is included in the pilot project. If such a pilot project were to reject services to any non Latino students, I will boycott it. My brown face will never be seen at any of these services.

But I trust this will never happen. I trust the college leaders will not plan to accommodate any segregated facility to help Latinos only on campus. I do not think this is

even a suitable idea in this age.

That is why I welcome the grant. This campus needs that money. I congratulate and thank those administrators who have managed to bring additional funds to the college.

In the past three years I have reported, on and off, on college budget-related matters, and as I have interviewed administrators,

faculty, and student leaders, I have learned how programs suffer when massive budget cuts backs on education occur. Budget cuts have often resulted in class cuts, and in student fee hikes. I don't want that kind of effect to hit me. If the college does well, I, as student, do well.

In a practical sense, all students and the college community will

benefit from any money that reaches the campus. I cannot picture in my mind a Mr. Sotelo, or any other administrator, tutor, or instructor conducting services and telling a student, "we can't assist you with your math because this project is for Hispanics only."

To suggest the college is selling its pride for \$1.75 million, is an idea that requires careful thought.

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✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪

The Valley Star will receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make ra-

cial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations. Letter must be signed and include student's ID number. Letters may be dropped at the Valley Star Bungalow 25, by Monday morning for the following Thursday.

Alumnus goes for the gold

By David Helleskov
Asst. News Editor

The rank of Eagle Scout, the most prestigious status bestowed by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) now prominent among the 49 merit badges displayed on David Tuckman's sash will soon be joined by a gold Congressional Medal of Honor. Tuckman, who has already been awarded the Congressional Silver Medal of Honor, says he has always tried to bring forth a "strong student

requires many years of service to the community, dedicated commitment, and adherence to strong moral qualities. Trustworthiness, helpfulness and reverence are three main points taken from the 12-point Scout Law that represent these qualities for Tuckman. Of the estimated 4.25 million members of the BSA nationwide, approximately only two percent com-

"I saw the monuments in which the homeless people lived and spoke to veterans that were displaced and felt the government had cheated them."

David Tuckman
Former Valley Student

voice." He was a former commissioner of Jewish concerns in the Associated Students Union (ASU) and a two-year student member of the staff diversity board. Tuckman advocates student concerns "as a voice to be reckoned with with compassion and a deep concern for my fellow students. I shall continue student advocacy at UCLA with the same fervor as I have done for you at Valley."

The Eagle Scout achievement

plete the trail to the Eagle Scout ranking.

The local and national recognition which led to his many awards mean a great deal to Tuckman. Who's Who Among American High School Students commended him for high standards of excellence in community leadership and positive performance in academics in its 1993-94 edition. "I received a Youth Community Service Award from the Constitutional

Rights Foundation (CRF) for outstanding civic leadership in my community and community service," says Tuckman.

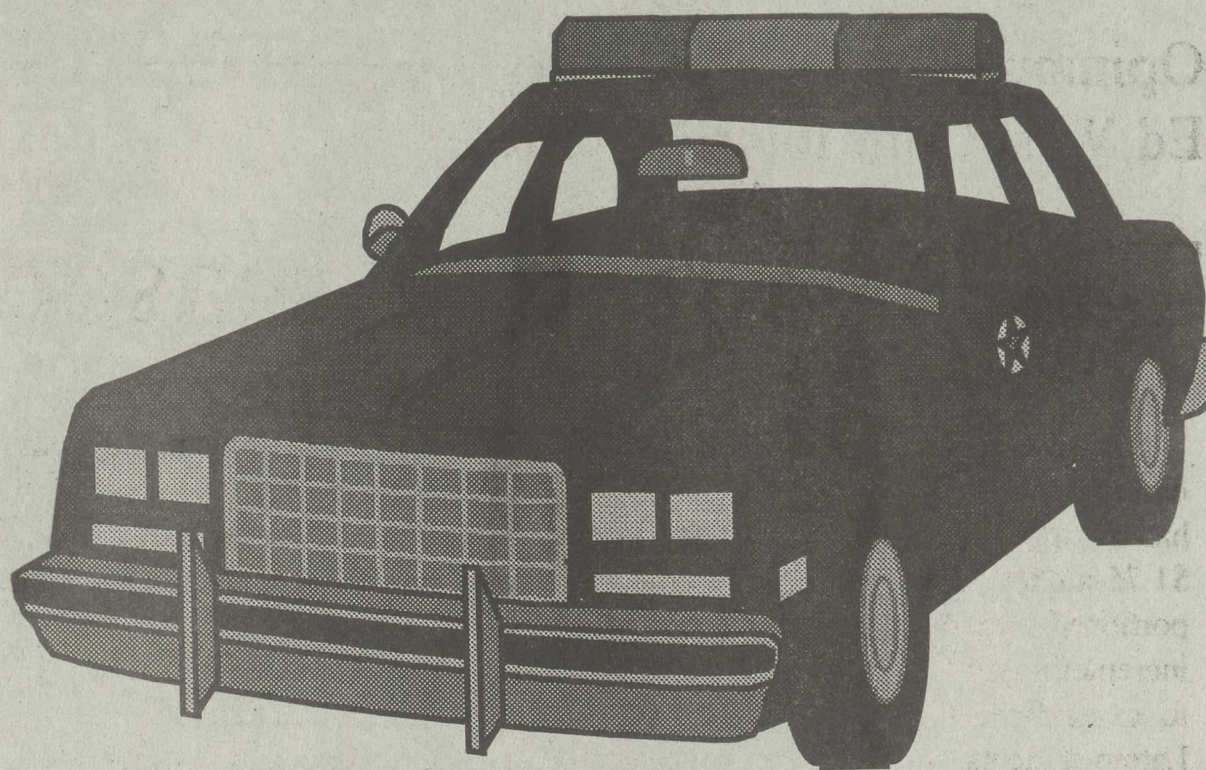
After participating in a "scouting for food" program that involved collecting and distributing food to the homeless, Tuckman traveled to Washington D.C. and worked in a soup kitchen. There, he "saw the monuments in which

the homeless people lived and spoke to veterans that were displaced and felt the government had cheated them,"

says Tuckman.

As a member of police explorers, he helped provide security and crowd control at the Fourth of July celebration at Pierce College. He assisted with community fingerprinting which is used to quickly find lost children.

To be continued on
Feature page 5.



Crime Report

Crimes in first six weeks of the fall semester

Stolen vehicles: 8
6 in daytime
2 at night

Burglary from vehicles: 14
9 in daytime
5 at night

Assault and battery: 2

Vandalism: 2

Theft: 3

1 arrest from book store for theft
1 arrest of two skateboarders
for public disturbance.

A stolen newspaper vending machine was recovered Sunday night in the cafeteria parking lot. Two suspects were apprehended and the owner, a business man in Los Angeles, has been notified. The machine was stolen off campus.

A new truency law went into effect, October 1, 1995. The Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 45.04, which makes it illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to loiter in public on school days between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Associated Students Union

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STARTS OCTOBER 6

Cruise over to Crossroads

By Bristol Mac Donald
Entertainment Editor

If you have been in search of a place to escape between classes, to unload those heavy backpacks and unwind or perhaps cram for that test that completely slipped your mind, then Crossroads Cafe is the place for you.

At the corner of

Burbank Blvd. and Fulton Ave., a skip and a jump through parking lot A, this quaint little haven exists.

Whatever your pleasure may be, from breakfast to burgers or an energizing cup of java, it can be found here. What this little cafe lacks in size it more than makes up for in charm, quality food and good old fashioned hospitality.

Having recently come under new management, the history of this small brick structure, situated alongside the railroad tracks, is illusive. Dating back to 1971, it

was previously known as George's Puppy Dog Cafe. Rumors have it this establishment was once a train stop.

Today the decor honors those days long gone with original train lights and Coca-Cola memorabilia.

"I'd love to get opinions from the students of what they would like to see in here. Who better to get ideas from."

Amy Lechlak
Crossroads cafe owner

"I've only been here 10 months, but I know the train still came by up until about a year ago," says Amy Lechlak, owner, cook and bottle washer of Crossroads Cafe.

Lechlak sits at a table in the outdoor patio of the cafe, taking a break from her long, hectic schedule. "I grew up around the restaurant business. Since I was 10, I've been cooking. I swore I'd never do this again, but here I am," Lechlak laughs.

Originally from Ohio, 25 year old Lechlak holds an Associates Degree in medical assisting and

hopes, when her schedule permits, to take classes at Valley College. She is more than familiar with college life, seeing the many students that frequent Crossroads daily. "Half my clientele are Valley students. They usually come

to study and have coffee, muffins or breakfast. We definitely feel it when you guys are not in school," she says.

Lechlak runs every aspect of the business with the help of her parents. She is now in the process of making plans to expand the menu. "I'd love to get opinions from the students of what they would like to see in here. Who better to get ideas from," Lechlak smiles.

The next time you find yourself at loose ends, needing a fast pick-me-up, an easy meal or just a place to relax, cross the tracks and head over to Crossroads Cafe. The friendly, casual atmosphere is guaranteed to be a welcome respite from classes.



Co-owner Amy Lechlak relaxes from her hard day of cooking food and brewing java at the Crossroads Cafe.

Campus Concert Series

OCTOBER PERFORMANCES

Thursday, October 5

John Balbuena Jazz Quintet
Music Room 112, 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 12

The Horse Soldiers with
Robert Lane Music
Recital Hall, 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, October 18

The Valley Symphony Orchestra
Robert Chauls, conductor
Little Theatre, 8:00 p.m. \$8.00,
\$6.00 students and seniors

Thursday, October 19

Robert Simon, classical guitar
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Thursday, October 26

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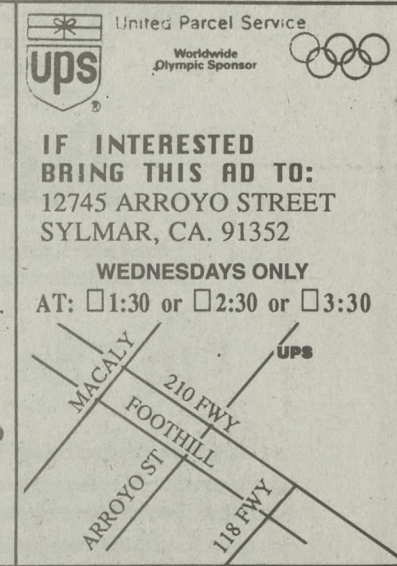
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1pm-4pm

6pm-9pm

11pm-2:30am



Former student instructs

By Lisa Lewenberg
Valley Star Staff Writer

Nine years ago, a young, bright-eyed student who had recently emigrated from Iran walked into Room 202 of the Campus Center and was inspired. The student didn't even know how to turn on the power switch of the machine at her desk, but within a short time, she was awed by the beautiful, intelligent computer instructor who truly seemed to care about her class.

After receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature in Iran, Rabani emigrated to the United States. She took a job in the Office of Instruction to help pay the \$125 a unit tuition fees and elected to skip basic computer courses and move straight into programming to cut costs. "Most students do not realize the tremendous advantage of getting an education for \$13 a unit."

Rabani worked extra hard to

succeed in her classes because she says she knew she couldn't afford to do otherwise. Required to take 12 units a semester to maintain residency privileges, her schedule consisted of a full load of morning classes immediately followed by work until 4 p.m., then computer labs till 11 p.m. Rabani attributes her inspiration to computer lab manager Israel Ortiz. "I owe him so much. He really pushed me and helped me through. Just when I thought I could not do it anymore, he would inspire me to stick to it. To this day he devotes his time to helping students achieve their goals." Rabani won a position with the GAIN program on campus. The program assists single parents in receiving financial aid, acquiring an education and job skills.

Rabani's first exposure to American policies and working with people through their difficulties had a "huge impact" on her life. She describes some of the

GAIN math and computer literacy students as her "best friends" who helped enlighten her about the reality of life and its hardships.

Upon completing an associate degree at LAVC, she transferred to CSUN in 1990 to pursue an MA in Public Administration with a minor in computers. When she graduated, she returned to LAVC to teach her first computer class, which took place in CC 122 two years ago.

Rabani's class boasts high enrollment and low drop-out rates. "Many students are frightened of computers and need someone to take the time to guide them through until they are comfortable. Today's kids face a lot of problems. Many support themselves while simultaneously supporting children. They do not need more pressure. They need hope for the future. I try to make my class fun and interesting because that is how life and learning should be. At the same time,



Computer Science Instructor Ellie Rabani takes a break from classes.

"Dead ends are not an option."

Ellie Rabani
Computer Science Instructor

they are required to do a lot of work because working hard is necessary to succeed."

In addition to her part-time teaching job at LAVC, Rabani is currently in her second year of law school. "Working with the wonderful people at GAIN inspired me to pursue a degree in family law and work with the underprivileged." Rabani credits her family as a "strong support group" that helped instill the values of hard work and achievement from an early age.

Rabani has some advice for Valley students. "Work hard. Be strong. Face your fears and take advantage of the challenges life places before you. Dead ends are not an option. There is always another day, always an alternative."



David Tuckman, a Congressional Gold Honor Medal nominee, moves onward and upward as an Eagle Scout

Continued from
News page 3.

Tuckman also worked communications at the front desk of the San Fernando Valley Headquarters of the Los Angeles Police Department.

To qualify for nomination to receive the gold congressional medal, Tuckman had to complete a minimum 840 activity hours. These hours include more than 400 hours of voluntary community service, 200 hours of physical fitness and 200 hours of personal development. He completed over 1000 hours while attending LAVC. While competing in varsity track and cross country, he was commended for showing "inspiration to his teammates through his dedication and sense of fair sportsmanship."

"In 1993 and 1994, I undertook an expedition at Camp Pendleton, United States Marine Corps, through 'Pride and Guts' Training with Explorer scouts from across California. I learned motivational skills and law enforcement training to be better prepared for service to my community in law enforcement and community service," says Tuckman.

According to Tuckman, support from scoutmaster Russ Wojcik and advisors Mark Weller and Barry Collins has been extremely helpful "all along the way."

Tuckman's Police Explorers advisor, Officer J. Conrad and Al Stern, Explorer Advancement Chairman, and his father, Morris Tuckman, Parents' Committee chairman and OA associate advisor, were also instrumental. "Without them, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Tuckman is required to finish his portfolio in order to gain approval from California's Congressional Award Review Committee. Application papers are then sent to the National Review Committee, a Washington group made up of senators, educators, and distinguished business and civic leaders.

Tuckman, who says he continually yearns for cross-country running, was sponsored by Students Run LA (a reform program for high school students) in the Los Angeles Marathon. "I always get volunteered for almost any type of community service. I'm the type of person who can't say no."

Tuckman says, "It is not our task to always complete our deeds in civic-minded service to the welfare of others, but, it is important that we try and give whatever effort we can."

“Without a good education I would not be a doctor to help sick people, or a teacher to help children like me.”

Nicholas Genchi
5th grade

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Coming October To Theatres Everywhere

Basketball season will open with a new face

By Sandra Carranza
Sports Editor

The Monarchs named Willie Jones as new Assistant Basketball

Coach, as opening day of the 1995 basketball season approaches.

Jones brings to Valley an enormous amount of experience accumulated from his college playing days. He competed at Oakland

Community College in Farmington Hills, Michigan from 1984 to 1986 where he finished as a state Most Valuable Player (MVP). Jones attended the University of Wyoming for two years. He played power forward opposite Fennis Dembo, who later played for the Detroit Pistons.

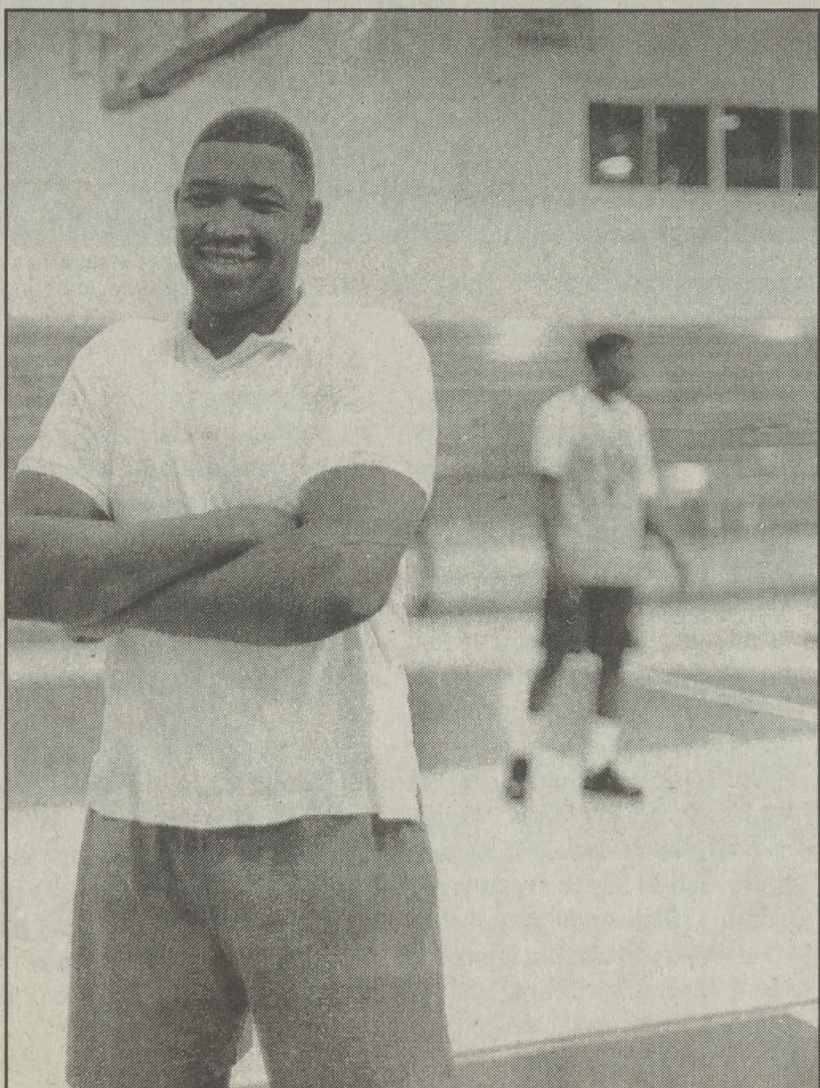
"Jones is a positive addition to the staff."

Head Coach
Doug Michelson

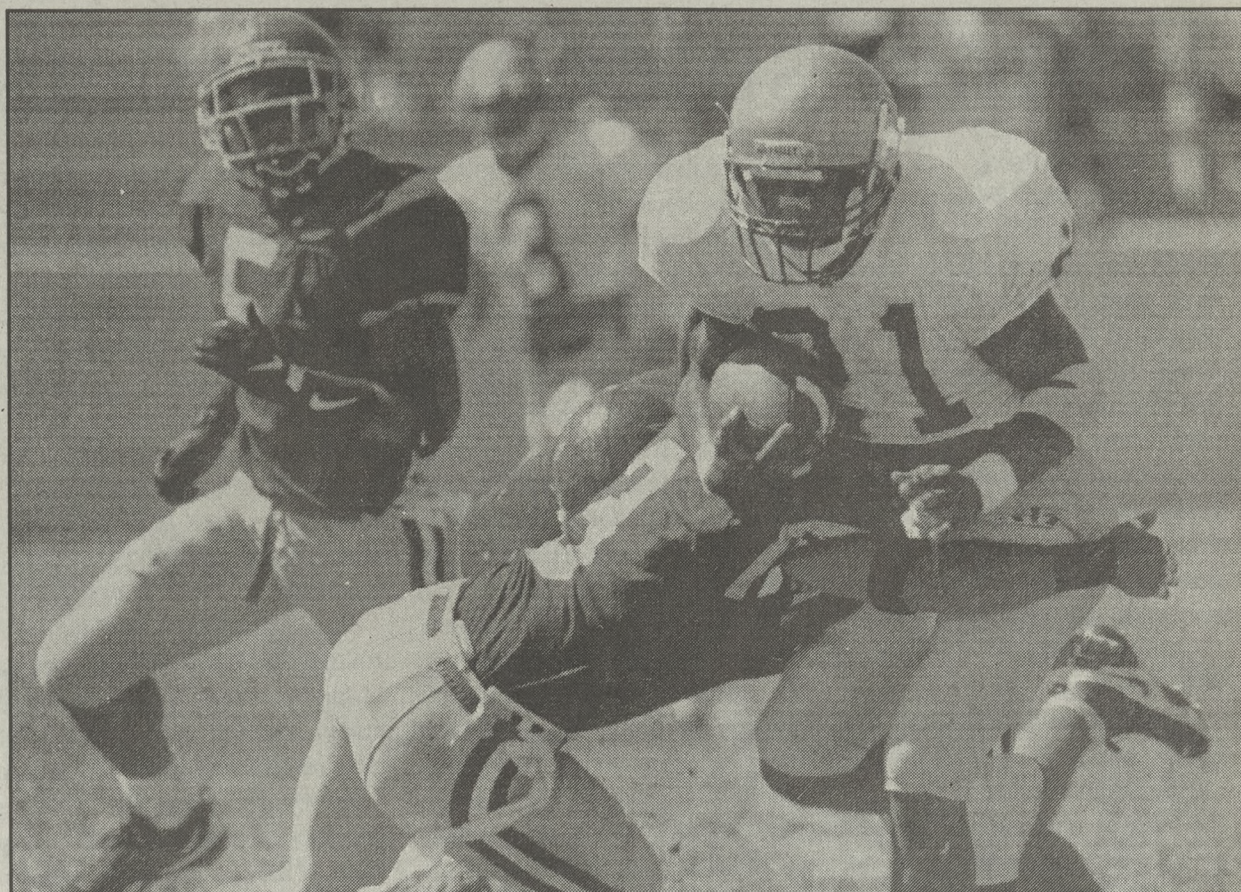
As he enters the field of coaching, Jones hopes to return some of the opportunities that basketball gave him to the players he will be working with. "I just want to get them as high as I was so they will do the right thing in life. I want them all to have something successful to look at," said Jones.

Jones had a coach who helped him as a coach and as a friend and that's what he wants for his players. "On the court, I plan to stress the passing and the rebounding game. Equally important is the overall defense and offense, not only on an individual basis but as a team as well," said Jones.

Doug Michelson Basketball Head Coach, welcomes Jones and said, "Jones is a positive addition to the staff, one who brings a wealth of experience having played at the community college level."



Willie Jones, assistant coach, takes a breather at basketball practice.



Marcus Harvey, on his way to his third touchdown, 200 all purpose yards. The Monarchs, at 4-0 and are ranked number one in the state. They are vying for the top placement in the National Championship.

Monarchs outgun Vaqueros

By James Jamora
Valley Star Staff Writer

The Monarchs 4-0, 3-0, in (WSC) are averaging almost 500 offensive yards per game and forty-four points. Led by the largest offensive line in the Western States Conference including 1994 All-Conference tackles Eugene Bernal, "Gino" 6-5 300lbs. and Dan Cotti, 6-6 300lbs. The Conferences top ranked offense, and its highest rated Quarterback, Aaron Flowers, who has passed to a core of 12 receivers and running backs, Marcus Harvey, Elijah Raphael,

and Marcel Desir "Shaka" The Monarchs Rolled up over 500 offensive yards in scoring 48 points.

Against the Vaqueros, the Monarchs went up 21-0 in the first quarter when Quarterback Aaron Flowers 28 of 40 for 250 yards hit wide receiver Cameron Perry, in the back of the endzone. After that score the Monarchs never looked back.

Running back Marcus Harvey, had his biggest game of the season so far with over 200 all purpose yards including touchdown runs of 58, 10, and 1 yard. Harvey stated that "perfect execution by

the offensive line was the key to his running success." Running back, Elijah Raphael, contributed with over 100 all purpose yards including a 7-yard touchdown run in the first quarter.

Head coach Jim Fennwick, stated to the team after the game that "We just came up with a victory in the biggest, most difficult game of the season psychologically." He was referring to a possible psychological let down caused by the high of the teams biggest win in the last forty years the previous week against Bakersfield at Bakersfield 33-30.

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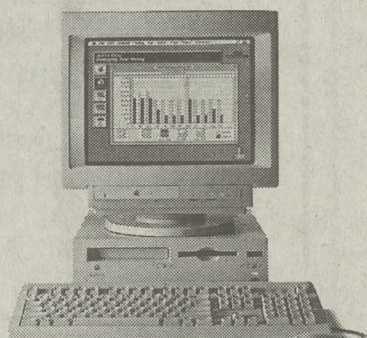
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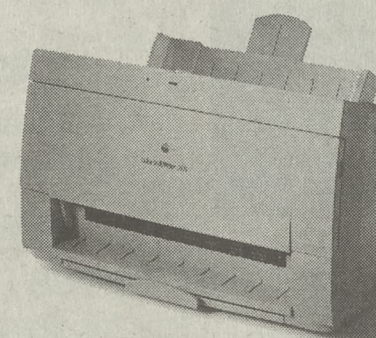
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